



DANCE ONTARIO

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

A MESSAGE FROM

SAMARA THOMPSON, CHAIR



Dance Ontario's 37th year was productive and exciting, filled with change, challenges, and successes!

Our organization has a unique and indispensable role in the Ontario dance community. We serve dance professionals, students, studios, companies, scholars,

enthusiasts, and many other dance-related professions and activities. As such, even with COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, Dance Ontario continued to serve our membership by offering virtual dance performances, workshops, resources, among many other undertakings.

A few highlights include planning for our 28th annual DanceWeekend, which went virtual for the first time! Our six regional Networks thrived and expanded to include Ottawa. We engaged in political advocacy, ensuring the voice of the dance artist was heard by our government during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

I sincerely thank and appreciate those who were a part of Dance Ontario's continued success this past year. Amy Hampton, our Executive Director was integral to Dance Ontario flourishing and broadening its offerings during her first full year in her position. Her insight, foresight, and ability to pivot in our unprecedented times was astonishing. Along with her was Julie McLachlan, our Membership Coordinator, who also went above and beyond to ensure Dance Ontario's excellence in dance service. Thank you to our Network Coordinators for their hard work and commitment.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to the Board of Directors, who gave freely of their time and passion to support Dance Ontario. In a year full of flux, our Board members came together in an exceptional fashion to support the endeavours of Dance Ontario. I have great gratitude and appreciation for all of you.

Our Board bid farewell to Board member Sashar Zarif, who moved on to other opportunities. I thank him for his time and dedication to Dance Ontario.

As we enter our 38th year, I see another year that will have us dancing with joy, as we provide rich and valuable services while broadening our offerings to our members. On behalf of Dance Ontario, I thank you for your membership. We look forward to working with you in dance throughout the coming year and invite you to *Come Dance with Us*.

A MESSAGE FROM

AMY HAMPTON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The 2020-21 year was a wild ride! My first year as ED brought with it change, learning, growing and pivoting. It was an opportunity to think deeply about the role of the organization in the broader dance landscape and to reimagine and reinvigorate our commitment to our

core values embodied in our new tag line Come Dance with Us!

One main goal of our work this year was to stay connected to our community through the distance imposed by the pandemic. A record response to the annual membership survey shaped our plans and programs moving forward, offered insight into members' needs and informed our ongoing advocacy work at the provincial level.

In response to the larger societal issues affecting our communities the Dance Ontario Board formed two new committees, The Diversity & Equity Committee and the COVID-19 Response to Committee that opened up opportunities for discussions, offered trainings and community meetings shaping the trajectory of our work this year.

With support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Dance Ontario embarked on a Digital Shift, making our programming and our processes more accessible to members across the province allowing the organization

to stay relevant through changing and challenging times. The new DanceON Series of online workshops launched in February with *Indigenous Awareness 101* with Maria Montejo and continued with *Cashflow for Creatives* and Jennifer Wan and *Going Digital* with Yasmina Ramzy. In partnership with Manifest Communications, DO created a Digital Marketing and Revenue Strategy that included a membership campaign and promotion for DanceWeekend'21 to inform our work in this new digital landscape. With funding from the Canada Council for the Arts and in partnership with DanceWorks, The CanDance Network and Munter Westermann Arts & Media, we did a needs assessment and software scoring for our database and membership management tools created a Digital Guiding Principles document.

Talented choreographers Rodney Diverlus and Matthew Cuff were the recipients of the 2021 Creative Partnerships Commissions, and due to COVID restrictions their works will be presented in fall 2021. Choreographer Alysa Pires created a series of videos with choreography for a collaborative film which had 65 registrations from both members and the general public.

Through this year marked by the COVID-19 pandemic, Dance Ontario continued to provide essential services to Ontario's diverse and vibrant dance community. Our website continues to be a valuable resource for both members and the public, averaging 120 visits per day and over 44,000 users this year. Headlines digital editions were sent out monthly along e-blasts communicating with members on relevant and timely issues and events. Our social media was more active than ever and we have increased our followers to over 13,000 across platforms.

A MESSAGE FROM (CONT.)

AMY HAMPTON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We were thrilled to add a new Network in Ottawa to our existing six Networks across the province and our Regional Coordinators continued supporting dance and dancers in their communities through initiatives including providing PPE to dance studios in need.

Advocacy efforts were focused on COVID-19 related issues this year and Dance Ontario continued to work with the PASO-OPSA Coalition. We submitted over 10 letters to the provincial government including joint letter with the PASOS, outlining our members' needs, informing the government on the state of the sector and sharing recommendations for programs and services that would support the dance community through the pandemic and into the recovery phase. Dance Ontario joined forces with 30 national and provincial arts service organizations across a range of artistic disciplines to develop the National Arts and Culture Impact Survey (NACIS). In total, 2,001 individuals and organizations from across Canada completed the survey.

Dance Ontario is well positioned to take on an uncertain future, with new flexible and responsive programming, and to increase our reach across the province and connect with new communities through our digital tools.

Thank you to our incredible Board, Committees, Networks Coordinators, volunteers, partners funders and sponsors and to you our members for keeping our dance community dancing through the last year!



70 SOCAN LICENSES ISSUED

13,000 SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS

75,000 UNIQUE PAGE VIEWS ON DANCEONTARIO.CA

3 DIGITAL WORKSHOPS

4 COMMISSIONED WORKS

8 FREE CLASSES WITH GADFLY

56 NEW MEMBERS

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FROM

ANUSCKA ROES, TREASURER

DANCE ONTARIO ASSOCIATION
Statement of Financial Position
As at March 31, 2021
(Unaudited)

	2021	2020
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	\$ 53,793	\$ -
Accounts receivable <i>(Note 3)</i>	1,778	18,138
Harmonized Sales Tax recoverable	4,933	4,289
Prepaid expenses	1,260	-
	\$ 61,764	\$ 22,427
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
Bank indebtedness	\$ -	\$ 9,717
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	12,008	23,104
Deferred revenues <i>(Note 4)</i>	57,159	9,000
	69,167	41,821
DEFICIT		
UNRESTRICTED	(7,403)	(19,394)
	\$ 61,764	\$ 22,427
COMMITMENT <i>(Note 7)</i>		
SIGNIFICANT EVENT <i>(Note 9)</i>		

ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

Creative Partnerships Program Commissioned Artists:

Rodney Diverlus

Matthew Cuff

Commissioned dance film from Nostos Collectives

COME DANCE WITH US participatory film
choreography by Alysia Pires

International Dance Day Message from Jera Wolfe

Free Hip Hop Classes Online with Gadfly

DO Holiday Dance Party

COVID-19 Community Meeting

DanceON Series Workshops:

Indigenous Awareness 101 with Maria Montejó

Cashflow for Creatives with Jennifer Wan

Going Digital with Yasmina Ramzy



| REGIONAL NETWORK

HALTON DANCE NETWORK

Coordinators: Kate Lowe & Alan Faigal

WINDSOR & REGION DANCE

Coordinator: Mary Jo Mullins

SUDBURY DANCE NETWORK

Coordinator: Emma Duncan

THE SOO/ALGOMA DANCE NETWORK

Coordinator: Valerie Calam

LONDON DANCE NETWORK

Coordinator: Bizz Varty

DUFFERIN DANCE NETWORKS

Coordinator: Catherine Carpenko

OTTAWA DANCE NETWORK

Coordinators: Lola Ryan Elizabeth Emond-Stevenson



| DANCE ONTARIO ASSOCIATION

Dance Ontario Association was founded in 1976 and incorporated not-for-profit (1985) We are a dynamic cross section of Ontario's dance sector from internationally renowned companies to individual dance artists.

STAFF 2020-21

Amy Hampton
Julie McLachlan

SUPPORT

Karen Bennedsen, Bookkeeper
Richard Munter, Web Developer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020-21

Samara Thompson (Chair)
Jennifer Watkins (Vice Chair)
Anuschka Roes (Treasurer)
Alan Faigal (Secretary)
Lola Ryan (Past Chair)
Jane Gardner
Debra Kapp
Kate Lowe
Yamina Ramzy
Lee Sela

2020-21 SPONSORS

The Dance Current
Pivot Dancer
The Respect Group
Curv Health
Front Row Insurance
Loft Cycle Club
City Dance Corps

Julie McLachlan

Photo credits: Amy Hampton by Cylla von
Tiedemann, CCDT by Canadian Contemporary Dance
Theater, Halton Dance Network, Julie McLachlan,
Natasha Powell

DANCE ONTARIO IS GENEROUSLY FUNDED BY:

